(b) the number of personnel who have teen killed there; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government On the iiidiun Defence Personnel in Maldives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A total of 2072 Armed Forces personnel were sent to Maldives during the first week of November, 1988.

(b) No Armed Forces personnel was killed during the operations.

(c) The expenditure involved has not been separately computed.

Collaboration in the seed sector

*351. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERM A: SHRIMATI BDOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions laid down by the Department of Biotechnology for Indian Companio Firms for allowing foreign collaborations in the seed sector under the new policy on seed development involving foreign equity participation as well as technical collaboration on royalty payment bais, separately;

(b) whether the Indian Companies| Firms are required to have any other clearance or approval from any other Ministry/Department for such collaborations; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names of the Companies|Firms which have been allowed such collaboration during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMTC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a)The norms and conditions for Indian Companies/Firms for allowing foreign collaboration in the seed sector under the new policy on seed development was laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and not by the Department of Biotechnology. The new policy was announced on 16.9.1988 by the Ministry of Agriculture. The new policy has not laid down any new norms or conditions for allowing foreign collaboration in the seed sector. However, the policy was announced with a view to encouraging seed production on commercial lines, upgradation of planting materials methodologies to provide best planting materials to the farmers. The new policy on seed development emphasises upon certain quarantine regulations and specifics the categories of organisations who are eligible to import the seeds and planting materials. As an incentive to indigenous production, import duty on seed has been reduced to 15 per cent. Such duty deduc-i tion shall be accorded only to seeds meant for sowing and to planting materials. Policy also provides for pre-shipment credit npto 180 days at 9.5 interest per annum and beyond 180 days, the rate of interest is marginally raised. Besides cash compensatory support, income tax rebate and backward areas subsidy are also being considered for seed producing industry.

(b) The approval for foreign collabo ration proposal in the Seed Sector is issu ed by the Department of Industrial Deve lopment on the recommendations of the concerned Departments or by the Adminis* trative Ministries under the powers dele gated to them.

(c) In the last six months the following Companies have been allowed foreignjtechnical collaborations:

(i) M/s Cadgil Seeds India (P) Ltd.

(ii) M|s. PHI Biogene (P) Ltd.

fiii) M|s ITC Agrotech Ltd.

(iv) M|s. Bejo Shestal Seeds (P) Ltd.

(v) M|s. Bihar Seeds Corporation.

(vi) M|s. Nath Seeds (P) Ltd.